57. Bridge at the Kollampuzha river crossing.

THE REV. MR. K. JOSHUA (*Member, Municipal Council, Attingal*) said that the Kollampuzha river crossing was at an important place, being near the Koikkal temple and the Palace and at the head of the road to Dalavapuram. People coming to the Attingal public offices form Anchutengu, Kadakkavur and other places and nearly 400 children attending the local schools had to cross this ferry daily. About 4,000 people had to pass through this place every day. The ferry boat and the boatman will often be absent and it was inconvenient to ford the stream even in summer. In winter the difficulties experienced were enormous. There was only one boat and that could take only 25 passengers, while the number waiting would be nearly 100. This caused special hardship to women and sometimes led to quarrels. Occasionally, the overloaded boat capsized and deaths occurred. The bridge three miles up the stream on the Quilon-Trivandrum Road was not of use to these people. A bridge or at least a foot bridge should be constructed at that place, and if that was not possible, a motor ferry boat should be provided during the rainy season.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joshua, there is already, as you say, a ferry at Kollampuzha. You draw a very harrowing picture of what happens at this particular ferry. But I find it difficult to visualize this particular ferry as different from any other ferry similarly placed in this country. I will come and have a look at the spot some day and then do the needful.

58. Public Works in the Kottarakara Taluk.

MR. RAMAN NILAKANTAN (*Member, Kottarakara taluk*) said that Pulamantodu, which coursed along the western side of over one thousand *paras* of paddy lands, was much deeper than the level of the paddy fields with the result that it was useless for purposes of irrigation. Furthermore, it drained away the little water gathering from natural springs in the fields. The bed of the *todu* could be raised by constructing dams across it in several places. But that would not render it fit for irrigation purposes. For this purpose, people formerly used to cut a small aqueduct from Minpidipara, two miles up the Pulamantodu, and divert the water to the paddy fields. This conduit had become useless and as a result there was no means of irrigating the extensive paddy fields. The aqueduct should be restored or some other work done which would help the cultivation there.

The bridge at Cherupoika on the village road to Kallada should be put in order as early as possible. A bridge across the Kunnattur river on the Kottarakara-Sastankotta road was necessary. The importance of the Sastankotta market grew on account of the road ; but there was considerable difficulty in crossing the river, particularly during the rainy season, and if a bridge were constructed at Karimpinpuzha, the market would develop further.

The village road from Kundara to Puyapalli should be made into a public road. The difficulties of the public for want of a road from Vilangara on the Kottarakara-Velinallur road to meet the Main Central Road were many. The distance covered would be only four miles, but a road there would be of immense use to the people of Ummannur and other places. The opening of a public road connecting Vilangara with the Main Central Road should be sanctioned.

For the Kunnikod-Anchal road, two lines had been surveyed, one passing through Melilla East, Chakkuvarakkal and other places and the other through Melilla West, Talachira and other places. The latter line would be more useful to the people as the former passed through hilly and uninhabited areas and the proposal in regard to the latter course should be finally settled upon.

On account of the damages caused to the bridge at Kunnakara in the recent floods, the channel along the western side of the Kunnakara *ela* had become very deep and unserviceable. It should be put in order as early as possible.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Raman Nilakantan, in regard to the dam at Minpidipara across the Pulamantodu, an estimate is under preparation and we hope to take up the work next year.

2. In regard to the Cherupoika bridge, an estimate has been called for.

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